

May 10, 2002

Commissioner Robert Pernel
Commissioner Art Rosenfeld
Energy Efficiency Committee

Bill Pennington
Bryan Alcom

California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

RE DOCKET NUMBER – 01-BSTC-1; OPPOSITION COMMENTS TO APRIL 23RD
STAFF WORKSHOP; FIRST GROUP OF MEASURE REPORTS – CONSTRUCTION
QUALITY-WALLS

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing to express my opposition to the recent recommendations being made to reduce the effectiveness of insulation systems in the approved energy compliance methods because of perceived poor installation practice. These recommendations do not reflect the kind of professional quality we exhibit in our work nor the quality expected by our builder clients. It seems these recommendations are being made with very limited misguided information and have labeled my work and my industry inaccurately.

Since the early 1980's California's Energy Efficiency Standards have recognized the great value insulation provides to reducing home and building energy use and saving precious state energy resources. Insulation is one of the most cost-effective measures anyone can use for this purpose. My company has provided professional insulation service to the building industry for over ten (10) years and prides itself in the quality and integrity of materials and installation practices used. The recommendations recently being made to you show uncharacteristic examples of installed fiberglass batt, implying every home installation is of such poor standards as to provide little thermal control. I object to such an assertion.

Builders today require more exacting care in installed systems with tighter budgets allocated for quality work. It's not unusual to have to compete with companies whose installation techniques and tactics are less rigorous. However, these situations

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usually, and rightfully so, get sorted out as building inspectors easily ensure compliance to “correct” installations.

Please, do not accept the recommendations being considered before you. They are misguided, inaccurate, and incompletely depict installations systems being used in the marketplace.

Sincerely,

Richard Smith
General Manager
Paragon Schmid Building Products